

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

PAUL ROBERT PICKENS

(TDCJ No. 2007116),

Petitioner,

V.

WILLIAM STEPHENS, Director
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Correctional Institutions Division,

Respondent.

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No. 3:15-CV-3335-M

**ORDER ACCEPTING FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND
RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
JUDGE AND DENYING A CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY**

The United States Magistrate Judge made findings, conclusions, and a recommendation in this case. No objections were filed. The District Court reviewed the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation for plain error. Finding none, the Court ACCEPTS the Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge.

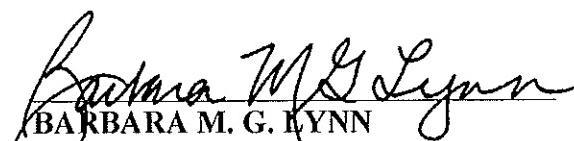
Considering the record in this case and pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22(b), Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 proceedings, and 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c), the Court DENIES a certificate of appealability. The Court adopts and incorporates by reference the Magistrate Judge's Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendation filed in this case in support of its finding that the Petitioner has failed to show that reasonable jurists would find "it debatable whether the

petition [currently] states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right" and "debatable whether [this Court] was correct in its procedural ruling" – that Petitioner did not fully and properly exhausted his state court remedies prior to filing his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 application. *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).¹

In the event the Petitioner will file a notice of appeal, the Court notes that the Petitioner will need to pay the \$505.00 appellate filing fee or submit a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

The Clerk is DIRECTED to serve electronically a copy of this order on the Texas Attorney General.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of November, 2015.



BARBARA M. G. LYNN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

¹ Rule 11 of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 Cases, as amended effective on December 1, 2009, reads as follows:

(a) Certificate of Appealability. The district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant. Before entering the final order, the court may direct the parties to submit arguments on whether a certificate should issue. If the court issues a certificate, the court must state the specific issue or issues that satisfy the showing required by 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22. A motion to reconsider a denial does not extend the time to appeal.

(b) Time to Appeal. Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a) governs the time to appeal an order entered under these rules. A timely notice of appeal must be filed even if the district court issues a certificate of appealability.